



# VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

September 2018  
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## Message from Dr Craig Mostert

It's finally Spring although I write this introduction to our newsletter following a few wet and chilly days. It was a weekend to grab a blanket and watch the rain come down with gusto. In some parts of the country there was snow. For a country that has been very short of water it is great to hear that the dam levels in the Cape have finally begun to creep up.



For those of us that are up early in the morning, this is the time of year we begin to look forward to. The sun is starting to peep over the horizon as we get up to the

joyful sound of bird song in the morning and it's great to be able to go home while it's still light. Our grass is starting to get greener and there is definitely a sense that summer will be with us before we know it.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and as we enjoy the warmer weather let's remember it's not only the sun that is getting ready to turn up the volume but all the little nasties that have been in hiding over winter. We'll save that discussion for another edition and just bask in the glorious Spring sunshine for now. Happy Reading!

In closing, for our long time clients that are part of the "Village family" thank you for your ongoing support and for our new clients and patients, thank you for choosing our family to look after yours. See you in person or on our Facebook page soon!

Warm regards

Dr Craig Mostert



The December school holidays are just around the corner and if you are going away you should already be making provision for your pets. Make sure you have a reliable person to look after them at home or book them into a reputable kennel or cattery as soon as possible.

Please remember that all kennels and catteries require their guests to be fully vaccinated on arrival. We recommend that all dogs should be vaccinated against Kennel Cough well before they reach the kennels so that they have time to develop an immunity before possible exposure to the disease.

### AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Hillcrest After hours 084 520 1417

Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300

## Sunflower Fund Hamper winners



The Sunflower Fund  
Hope begins with you

### Congratulations to all the winners of our Sunflower Fund hamper raffle.



Mr and Mrs Flemming of Hillcrest won the first prize hamper full of dog and cat goodies plus chocolates for the owners.

Mary van Heerden won the smaller second prize hamper also containing dog and cat goodies.

Mark Donohue won the third prize Nexgard hamper.

A big thank you to everyone who supported us in our effort to raise funds for such a worthy cause. The raffle together with the sales of topes raised R2 860 towards tissue typing blood samples. This has to be done before the donor can be listed

on the South African Bone Marrow Registry.

## Rabies still a problem in the area!!



We really cannot stress the importance of heeding this article.

Numerous cases of human rabies have been confirmed in KwaZulu-Natal this year plus two more cases this month.

There has been an increase in the number of human rabies cases from KZN and the Eastern Cape, which correlates with the outbreak of rabies in domestic dogs in these provinces.

Most human cases of rabies are related to domestic dog (and cat) exposures. When these animals are not vaccinated against rabies, there is the risk of them contracting the disease and consequently the risk of them passing it on to others, including humans. Rabies is fatal and each of the cases mentioned above have resulted in death.

Please make sure your pets have been vaccinated against rabies. By law in KZN this has to be done on a yearly basis.

We strongly recommend that you call the SPCA or similar organisation should you find a stray dog in the street. Do not attempt to capture it yourself.

## Breed Specific — Pharaoh Hound

This strikingly elegant dog visited the clinic recently and was admired by everyone. His name is Flame and he is a Pharaoh Hound belonging to the Dold family.



The Pharaoh Hound is an ancient dog breed who has changed little since his development more than 5,000 years ago. He was the dog of kings and may have hunted gazelles with pharaohs, hence his name. This loyal hunting companion later made his way to Malta, where he's now the national dog.

The Pharaoh Hound has a remarkable personality characterized by an immense joy for life. Intelligent and affectionate, he takes life as it comes and enjoys clowning for his people.

As with any hound, he has moments of aloofness and can be strong-willed. But in the main he's a gentle dog who gets along well with others, including children and other dogs. He loves human companionship and will seek out affection and attention from his people while still maintaining his independence.

One of his most endearing traits is his ability to blush. You may spot a deep rose colour on his nose and ears



when he's excited, happy, or enjoying some affection. Many owners will train their Pharaoh Hounds to smile. Since this fun-loving breed enjoys smiling so much, it isn't a hard trick to teach.

While he's too friendly to serve as a guard dog, the Pharaoh Hound will bark to alert you to anyone or anything that seems suspicious. Unfortunately, a lot of things look suspicious to a Pharaoh Hound. He'll also bark if he's left alone for too long or when he's bored, so it's best not to leave him alone for long periods.

It's wise to keep this dog on leash whenever he's in an unfenced area. Even if he obeys your every command at home, his prey instinct is so strong he'll be off — and temporarily deaf to your commands — if he spots anything interesting. Backyard fences should be too high to jump or climb, and preferably solid so he can't see through it.

If you want a well-behaved dog, you'll need to make sure your high-energy Pharaoh Hound gets at least 30 minutes of exercise a day. This dog can participate in lure coursing and agility, or come with you on a family jog or bike ride.

## Spring into action and keep your pets safe

Spring is here and the weather is warming up, the sun is out longer and our pets are not as sluggish as they were during the winter months. Warmer weather also means more time spent outside, more trips to the park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your pet has a microchip for easy identification and swift return home.

Here are a few more things we need to do to make sure our pets are safe.

### Spring cleaning

This can be a great way to get rid of things we're not using, reorganize our space and get all that dust and dirt we've ignored for months out of our lives. Be careful of the cleaners you use. Some are not safe for our pets to be around. Check the labels and keep your pets away from any newly cleaned area until it's completely dry and the chemicals used are safely put away.



### Groom your pets

All pet lovers have seen it at one time or another and many dread it each year....pets shedding their winter coat in large clumps. Many breeds of dog and many cats will start shedding their winter fur once the days start getting warmer and longer. Without some grooming, this fur will be shed in the house, creating more spring cleaning! An easy way to reduce the fur flying is to brush them on a regular basis and this will also help keep your pet comfortable as temperatures rise. Many pets love the scratching sensation of being brushed as well, and they appreciate the bonding time.



### Bath your pets

Spring is a great time for a bath for most dog breeds and even for cats. For those who don't want a furry ring around the tub or a wet pet running through the house, book your pet into a Pet Parlour.



### Let your garden grow with care

Fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides keep our plants and lawns healthy and green but their ingredients are not meant for four legged consumption and can be fatal if your pet ingests them. Always store these poisonous products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully.



You've got to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you've got, and remember what you had. Always forgive, but never forget. Learn from mistakes, but never regret.

## Leg injuries in dogs

Injuries to a dog can be distressing not only for the pet but also for the dog owner. Leg injuries are one of the most common injuries in dogs. Everyday activities like running and sprinting can result in cuts, sprains, torn ligaments and even broken bones in your pet. It is vital that as soon as you identify the symptoms of a leg injury, you contact your veterinarian for advice on appropriate care. In the absence of immediate care even the mildest of the injuries can become critical to the dog's health.



**Dog paw injuries:** The pads on the bottom of a dog's foot are prone to injury from glass, hot pavements and many other hazards. Healing can be difficult due to the pad's exposure to bacteria and pressure from standing on the injured foot. If you find the dog

limping then inspect its paw for cuts, punctures or swollen areas. If it is injured then the dog will react to pressure being put on the paw. If you find a deep cut or a shard of glass embedded in the paw, then you need to go to a veterinarian. Paw injuries may also be caused when the nails of the dogs are torn or cracked. If you find the nails chipped and bleeding, then the damaged part must be removed either at home or by a veterinarian. Remember that since this type of injury is likely to become infected, an antibiotic may be needed.

**Canine ligament injuries:** Injury to the cruciate ligament is one of the most common limb injuries seen in dogs. The cruciate is a stabilizing ligament in the knee. When it ruptures or becomes injured in another way, it causes knee pain and instability. Most dogs will hold up the leg when the cruciate ligament is injured. Some will put a bit of weight on the leg, but most cannot put full weight on it.

Only a veterinarian can determine if your dog has a cruciate injury. In some cases, dogs can recover with rest and medication. However, it is more common for dogs to need surgery to repair a ruptured cruciate ligament. Fortunately, there are several surgical options available and the success rate is favourable.

The most common reasons for the occurrence of this injury is when the dog slips on a slippery surface, makes a sudden turn while running, or is hit by a car. Also obesity can result in excessive weight on the joints.

### Other Injuries to the Limbs

There are a number of other injuries that may affect your dog's extremities. Most of these will cause limping. The severity of the limping usually tells you if you need to see a vet right away. After doing an exam, the vet may recommend radiographs (x-rays).

Limping might be caused by a fracture of one or more bones in the leg or paw. Major fractures and joint dislocation usually look fairly obvious. However, minor fractures may not be as clear, especially hairline fractures that affect small bones or bones that are not supporting a lot of weight. A fracture is treated by stabilizing/immobilizing the broken bones. This may be achieved by placing a splint or cast. Or, surgery and placement of a pin or plate might be necessary.

Your dog could have a soft tissue injury in the leg (sprained or strained a muscle). This often happens if your dog lands wrong after jumping or overdoes it while running or playing. Treatment usually involves medication and rest. More serious soft tissue injuries may require surgery.

**Dog leg injury symptoms:** Limping, foot dragging, stiff gait pattern (generally associated with arthritis), pain, swelling, bleeding and wounds, snappy behaviour, lethargy.

Remember to consult a veterinarian for further advice. Identifying a leg injury and providing appropriate medical care goes a long way in saving the dog from other serious health problems.



12 TWELVE-WEEK PROTECTION AGAINST TICKS AND FLEAS

SHOW YOUR LOVE  
**TREAT & HUG!**

Purchase a box of Bravecto® & stand a chance of winning YOUR SHARE OF R50 000 or other instant prizes!

Follow us on Facebook @bravectoSouthAfrica

For a chance to WIN a photo shoot with your family and dog, take an Instagram photo of you hugging your dog, use the unique code on your scratch card and the hashtag #bravectotreatandhug.

**BRAVECTO**  
EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY



## Start fighting those fleas

We mention flea control often in our newsletters because it is such an important part of keeping your pets healthy and happy. Pets that are full of fleas spend their lives scratching - this must drive them crazy and in turn irritate their owners. Fleas



also transmit worms and if your pets have worms, your family is sure to have them as well. The warmer weather is here and if you have not treated your pets throughout

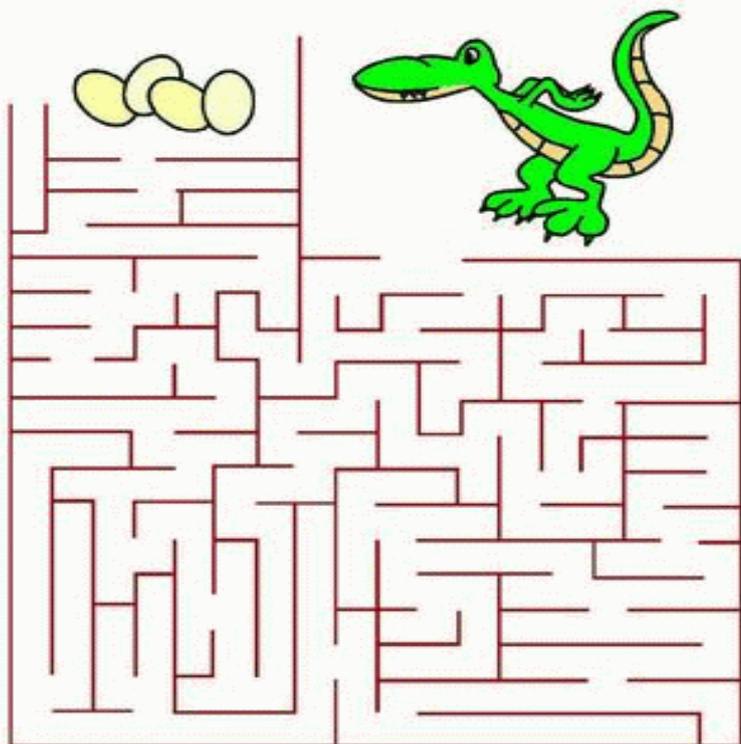
the winter months, we advise you to start now. There are a variety of tick and flea control products on the market so come in and ask our receptionists for some advice on the correct product to use.



### **Village Veterinary Clinic's Healthy Pet Club**

**Join our in-house Healthy Pet Club which allows you to pay monthly for annual vaccinations and health check, flea and tick control, plus deworming, all at 10% discount. In addition you qualify for 10% discount on all professional fees.**

# Puzzle page



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## Mammals Word Search



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- tiger
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- giraffe
- zebra
- cheetah
- chicken
- camel
- dolphin
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